CLAIMS

1. A method of configuring a processing device, comprising the steps of:

accessing a certificate bound to the processing device;

authenticating the certificate;

reading configuration parameters from the certificate, if properly authenticated;

configuring the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of accessing the certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters from the certificate are performed whenever the processing device is initially powered.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the steps of accessing the certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters from the certificate are repeated upon a system reset/boot.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuring step includes the step of configuring hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the configuring step includes the step of configuring software in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

6. A processing device comprising:

processing circuitry;

a memory coupled to the processing circuitry;

wherein the processing circuitry:

accesses a certificate bound to the processing device and stored in

the memory;

authenticates the certificate;

reads configuration parameters from the certificate, if properly authenticated;

configures the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

7. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the processing circuitry accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration parameters from the certificate whenever the processing device is initially powered.

8. The processing device of claim 7 wherein the processing circuitry accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration parameters from the certificate upon a system reset/boot.

9. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the processing circuitry configures hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

10. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the processing circuitry configures software in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

11. The processing device of claim 6 wherein the certificate can be created and modified only by the manufacturer of the processing device.

12. A method of configuring a processing device, comprising the steps of:

accessing a certificate bound to the processing device;

authenticating the certificate;

reading configuration parameters from a data file associated with the

certificate, if the certificate is properly authenticated;

configuring the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the steps of accessing the certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters are performed whenever the processing device is initially powered.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the steps of accessing the certificate, authenticating the certificate, and reading configuration parameters are repeated upon a system reset/boot.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the configuring step includes the step of configuring hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein the configuring step includes the step of configuring software in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

17. A processing device comprising:

processing circuitry;

a memory coupled to the processing circuitry;

wherein the processing circuitry:

accesses a certificate bound to the processing device and stored in the memory;

authenticates the certificate;

reads configuration parameters from a data file associated with the certificate, if the certificate is properly authenticated;

configures the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

18. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration parameters whenever the processing device is initially powered.

19. The processing device of claim 18 wherein the processing circuitry accesses the certificate, authenticates the certificate, and reads configuration parameters upon a system reset/boot.

20. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry configures hardware in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

21. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the processing circuitry configures software in the processing device responsive to the configuration parameters.

22. The processing device of claim 17 wherein the certificate can be created and modified only by the manufacturer of the processing device.